

Understanding Research

APPT by B.A. Luis Salazar Castro

What does it involve?

- Primary research: finding out facts about a topic first hand through interviews, data collection and so on.
- Secondary research: collecting existing research on a topic rather than creating new data about it.

What type of information does it use?

- Facts: objective, non debatable information.
- Interpretations: implications that can be processed from factual information.
- Evaluations: debatable judgments about facts or situations.
- Classic sources: Sources that are older than five years and that are often considered solid, touch stone knowledge in a specific area of academia.
- Current sources: recent, not older than five years studies on present concerns in academic areas of interest.

Some steps to follow

- Choose an interesting research question that is critical and personally significant.
- Make your research question specific and challenging (see examples in your course reader).
- Come up with your own hypothesis on what the answer to your research question is.
- Make sure you determine the information you should be presenting depending on the assignment and audience (facts, interpretations, and/or evaluations).
- Schedule and time your research in an organized manner.

Key verbs to use

- Informative: explain, describe, review
- Interpretive: analyze, compare, explain, interpret
- Persuasive: assess, justify, defend, refute, determine